

RG-50.589.1088

Summary

Vasily Philipovich was born in Salsk, small village. Before the war his father transported products on his horse; mother worked at home. They had a cow and a garden. There were about 5 collective farms in the area.

In the area there were several small plants, that produced parts for mechanisms. They continued to operate during the war.

His father fought at the front, he was in Germany.

The Germans occupied their village from 1942 to 1943, they ran away after Stalingrad battle.

They didn't have many Cossacks in their area.

During the war he didn't go to school.

Jewish people lived in the area before the war, but he didn't really knew that they were Jewish. He remembered Jewish refugees from Zhytomyr, they stayed in his grandfather's house. Refugees came by train. They stayed for a short period of time. There were several families. His family stayed in a dug-out. When Germans came to the village he remembered opened trucks that carried weapons.

The central street in the village was converted into a huge trench.

The Germans stayed in the houses of local people. The policemen were primarily Ukrainians.

The Brick Plant housed Soviet prisoners of the war, it was surrounded by barb wire, he used to bring food to the prisoners through the wire. He was always looking for his father, but he was in Germany.

He heard shots, but doesn't know anything about shootings.

He heard that Germans brought Romanies and Jews and killed them. He heard that victims had to dug their own graves.

They had a prison, it is still in the town. The Soviet soldiers stayed in their village after liberation.